

**Webster's
Encyclopedic
Unabridged
Dictionary
of the
English Language**



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which is equivalent to Mr. Smith's in Mr. Smith's son. [1795-1805; < Gk *periphrastikos*, deriv. of *periphrazein* to use periphrasis. See *PERI-*, *PHRASE*, *-TIC*] —*per/i-phras/ti-cal-ly*, *adv.*

per-i-ph-y-ton (pə rīf'i tən'), *n.* *Ecol.* the community of tiny organisms, as protozoans, hydras, insect larvae, and snails, that lives on the surfaces of rooted aquatic plants. [1940-45; prob. *PERI-* + *Gk phytōn* plant, *-PHYTE*, on the model of *PLANKTON*] —*per-i-phyt-ic* (pə rīf'i tīk'), *adj.*

per-i-plasm (pə rī'plaz/əm), *n.* an outer cytoplasmic layer that surrounds the oosphere in certain fungi. [1885-90; *PERI-* + *-PLASM*]

per-i-proct (pə rī'prɒkt'), *n.* (in certain echinoids) that part of the body surface bordering the anus. [1875-80; *PERI-* + *-proct* < *Gk prōktos* anus] —*per/i-proc/tal*, *per/i-proc/tic*, *per/i-proc/tous*, *adj.*

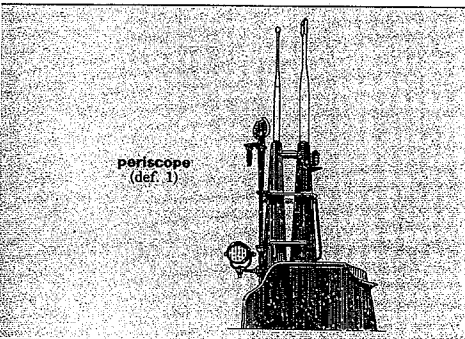
per-i-pter-al (pə rī'ptər əl), *adj.* (of a classical temple or other structure) surrounded by a single row of columns. [1820-30; < *L peripter(ōn)* (< *Gk* *n.* use of neut. of *peripteros* encompassed round with columns, lit., flying around; see *PERI-*, *-PTEROS*) + *-AL*]

per-i-pter-y (pə rī'ptər ē), *n.* *pl.* *-ter-ies*. a peripteral building. [*Gk peripter(ōs)* (see *PERIPTERAL*) + *-Y*]

per-rique (pə rēk'), *n.* a strong, rich-flavored tobacco produced in Louisiana, usually blended with other tobaccos. [1880-85, *Amer.*; allegedly after *Périgue*, nickname of Pierre Chenet, Louisiana grower who first developed it]

per-i-sarc (pə rī'sārk'), *n.* *Zool.* the horny or chitinous outer case or covering protecting the soft parts of hydrozoans. [1870-75; *PERI-* + *-sarc* < *Gk sārē* (gen. *sarkōs*) flesh] —*per/i-sar/cal*, *per/i-sar/cous*, *adj.*

per-i-scope (pə rī'skɒp'), *n.* 1. an optical instrument for viewing objects that are above the level of direct sight or in an otherwise obstructed field of vision, consisting essentially of a tube with an arrangement of prisms or mirrors and, usually, lenses; used esp. in submarines. 2. a periscopic lens. [1815-25; back formation from *PERISCOPIC*]



periscope
(def. 1)

per-i-scop-ic (pə rī'skɒp'ik), *adj.* 1. *Optics.* (of certain lenses in special microscopes, cameras, etc.) giving distinct vision obliquely, or all around, as well as, or instead of, in a direct line. 2. pertaining to periscopes or their use. Also, *per/i-scop-ic-al*. [1795-1805; < *Gk periskop(ein)* to look about (see *PERI-*, *-SCOPE*) + *-IC*]

per-ish (pər'ish), *v.i.* 1. to die or be destroyed through violence, privation, etc.: to *perish* in an earthquake. 2. to pass away or disappear: an age of elegance that has forever *perished*. 3. to suffer destruction or ruin: His valuable paintings *perished* in the fire. 4. to suffer spiritual death: Save us, lest we *perish*. 5. *perish the thought*, may it never happen: used facetiously or as an afterthought of foreboding. [1200-50; ME *perissen* < OF *periss*, long s. of *perir* < *L perire* to perish, lit., go through, spend fully, equiv. to *per-* *PER-* + *ire* to go] —*per-ish-less*, *adj.* —*per-ish-ment*, *n.* —*Syn.* 1. expire. See *die*. 2. wither, shrivel, rot, molder, vanish. —*Ant.* 2. appear.

per-ish-a-ble (pər'ish ə bəl), *adj.* 1. subject to decay, ruin, or destruction: *perishable* fruits and vegetables. —*n.* 2. Usually, *perishables*, something perishable, esp. food. [1605-15; *PERISH* + *-ABLE*] —*per/ish-a-bil/i-ty*, *per/ish-a-ble-ness*, *n.* —*per/ish-a-bly*, *adv.*

per-ish-ing (pər'ish'ing), *adj.* causing destruction, ruin, extreme discomfort, or death: *lost in the perishing cold*. [1400-50; late ME; see *PERISH*, *-ING*] —*per/ish-ing-ly*, *adv.*

per-i-spore (pə rī'spɔr', -spɔr'), *n.* *Mycol.* a membrane surrounding a spore. [1840-50; *PERI-* + *-SPORE*]

per-is-so-dac-tyl (pə rīs'ɒ dək'til), *adj.* 1. having an uneven number of toes or digits on each foot. —*n.* 2. any mammal of the order *Perissodactyla*, comprising the odd-toed hoofed quadrupeds and including the tapirs, rhinoceroses, and horses. Also, *per-is-so-dac-ty-le* (pə rīs'ɒ dək'til, -tīl). Cf. *artiodactyl*. [1840-50; < *NL perissodactylus* < *Gk perissós* (s) uneven, lit., beyond the norm, strange (deriv. of *péris* (prep. and adv.) round about, akin to *peri*; see *PERI-* + *-dactylos* *-DACTYLOUS*)] —*per/is-so-dac/ty-lous*, *adj.*

per-ist-a-lith (pə rīs'təl'ith), *n.* a group of stones encircling a mound, dolmen, or the like. [1880-85; < *Gk peristatos* surrounded (verb of *peristanai* to stand

round, equiv. to *peri-* *PERI-* + *sta-*, base of *histánai* to STAND + *-tos* verbal adj. suffix) + *-LITH*]

per-i-stal-sis (pə rī'stəl'sis, -stəl'), *n.* *pl.* *-ses* (-sēz). *Physiol.* the progressive wave of contraction and relaxation of a tubular muscular system, esp. the alimentary canal, by which the contents are forced through the system. [1855-60; < *NL* < *Gk peri-* + *stálsis* contraction, equiv. to *stal-* (var. s. of *stélein* to set, bring together, compress) + *-sis* *-SIS*]

per-i-stal-tic (pə rī'stəl'tik, -stəl'), *adj.* *Physiol.* of, pertaining to, or resembling peristalsis. [1645-55; < *Gk peristaltikos* compressing, equiv. to *peri-* *PERI-* + *stal-* (see *PERISTALSIS*) + *-tikos* *-TIC*] —*per/i-stal/ti-cal-ly*, *adv.*

Pe-ri-sté-ri (pə rī'stē'rē), *n.* a city in SE Greece, constituting part of Greater Athens. 118,413.

per-is-te-rite (pə rīs'tē'rīt'), *n.* a whitish, iridescent variety of albite, used as a gem. [1835-45; < *Gk peristērion* (a) pigeon, dove + *-ITE*]

per-i-stome (pə rī'stəm'), *n.* 1. *Bot.* the one or two circles of small, pointed, toothlike appendages around the orifice of a capsule or urn of mosses, appearing when the lid is removed. 2. *Zool.* any of various structures or sets of parts that surround or form the walls of a mouth or mouthlike opening. [1790-1800; < *NL peristoma*. See *PERI-*, *-STOME*] —*per/i-sto-mal*, *per/i-sto-matic* (pə rī'stə'mal'ik), *per/i-sto-mi-al*, *adj.*

per-i-STYLE (pə rī'stīl'), *n.* *Archit.* 1. a colonnade surrounding a building or an open space. 2. an open space, as a courtyard, surrounded by a colonnade. [1605-15; < *L peristylum* < *Gk peristylon*, *n.* use of neut. of *peristylus* surrounded with columns, equiv. to *peri-* *PERI-* + *-stylon* *-STYLE*] —*per/i-stylar*, *adj.*

per-i-STYLE-ium (pə rī'stīl'ē-əm, -stīl'ē-), *n.* *pl.* *-sty-li-a* (-stīl'ē-ə, -stīl'ē-ə). a peristyle. [1665-75; < *L peristylum* < *Gk peristylon*, dim. of *peristylon* *PERISTYLE*]

per-i-tec-tic (pə rī'tek'tik), *adj.* *Physical Chem.* of or noting the phase intermediate between a solid and the liquid that results from the melting of the solid. [1920-25; *PERI-* + *Gk tēktikos* able to dissolve, akin to *tēkein* to melt]

per-i-the-ci-um (pə rī'thē'shē-əm, -sē-əm), *n.* *pl.* *-cia* (-shē-ə, -sē-ə). *Mycol.* the fruiting body of ascomycetous fungi, typically a minute, more or less completely closed, globose or flask-shaped body enclosing the asci. [1825-35; < *NL*; see *PERI-*, *THECIUM*] —*per/i-the/ci-al*, *adj.*

per-i-the-li-um (pə rī'thē'lē-əm), *n.* *pl.* *-lia* (-lē-ə). *Anat.* the connective tissue surrounding certain small vessels, as capillaries. [1875-80; < *NL*, equiv. to *Gk peri-* *PERI-* + *thēl(e)* nipple + *-ium* *-IUM*] —*per/i-the/li-al*, *adj.*

per-i-to-ne-al-ize (pə rī'tō'nē-əl'īz'), *v.t.* *-ized*, *-iz-ing*. *Surg.* to cover with peritoneum. Also, *esp. Brit.*, *per/i-to-ne-al-ise*. [*PERITONEAL* + *-IZE*]

per-i-to-ne-um (pə rī'tō'nē-əm), *n.* *pl.* *-to-ne-ums*, *-to-ne-a* (-tō'nē-ə). *Anat.* the serous membrane lining the abdominal cavity and investing its viscera. [1535-45; < *LL*, var. sp. of *peritonaeum* < *Gk peritonaeon*, *n.* use of neut. of *peritōnaios*, synonymous deriv. of *peritonos* stretched round. See *PERI-*, *-TONE*, *-EUS*] —*per/i-to-ne-al*, *adj.* —*per/i-to-ne-ally*, *adv.*

per-i-to-ni-tis (pə rī'tō'nī'tis), *n.* *Pathol.* inflammation of the peritoneum, often accompanied by pain and tenderness in the abdomen, vomiting, constipation, and moderate fever. [1770-80; *PERITONEUM* + *-ITIS*] —*per/i-to-nit-ic* (pə rī'tō'nī'tik), *per/i-to-nit'al*, *adj.*

Per-i-trate (pə rī'trāt'), *Pharm.*, *Trademark*. a brand of pentaerythritol tetranitrate.

per-i-tri-chate (pə rī'trī kit, -kāt'), *adj.* (of bacteria) having flagella on the entire surface. Also, *per/i-trich-ic* (pə rī'trīk'ik). [*PERI-* + *TRICH-* + *-ATE*] —*per/i-trich*, *per/i-tri-chan* (pə rī'trī'chan), *n.*

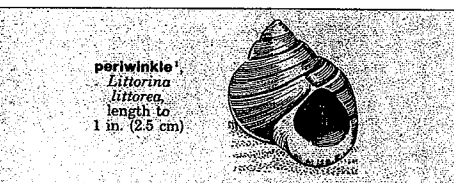
per-i-tri-chous (pə rī'trī'chəs), *adj.* 1. (of bacteria) having a uniform distribution of flagella over the body surface. 2. (of certain protozoans) having cilia arranged spirally around the mouth. [1875-80; *PERI-* + *-trichous* < *Gk -trichos* -haired; see *TRICHA-*, *-OUS*]

per-i-vis-cer-al (pə rī'vis'ər əl), *adj.* *Anat.* surrounding or situated about the viscera. [1865-70; *PERI-* + *-vis-cer-al*]

per-i-wig (pə rī'wig'), *n.* a wig, esp. a peruke. [1520-30; earlier *perwyke*, alter. of MF *perruque* *PERUKE*]

per-i-wig chair, *n.* a chair of c1700 having a high, caned back with an elaborately carved cresting.

per-i-win-klē (pə rī'wīng'kəl), *n.* 1. any of various marine gastropods or sea snails, esp. *Littorina littorea*, used for food in Europe. 2. the shell of any of these animals. [1520-30; perh. reflecting (through assimilation to *PERIWINKLE*) OE *pinewinkle*, equiv. to *pine* (< *L pīna* < *Gk pīna*, var. of *pīna* kind of mollusk) + *winkle*, *c.* dial. Dan *vinkel* snail shell]



periwinkle
Littorina littorea
length to
1 in. (2.5 cm)

per-i-win-klē (pə rī'wīng'kəl), *n.* 1. Also called *myrtle*, a trailing plant, *Vinca minor*, of the dogbane family, having glossy, evergreen foliage and usually blue-violet flowers. 2. any of several similar plants of the genus *Vinca* or *Catharanthus*. [bef. 1000; earlier *periwinkle*, *periwinkle*, alter. (see *-LE*) of ME *perwinke*, *perwinke* < AF *perwenke* (OF *perwenche*) < *LL perwinca*, *L vi(n)capervi(n)ca*; cf. OE *perwince*, MHG *ber(e)winke* < *LL perwinca*] —*per/i-win/klēd*, *adj.*

per-jure (pər'jər), *v.t.* *-jured*, *-jur-ing*. to render (oneself) guilty of swearing falsely or of willfully making a false statement under oath or solemn affirmation: The witness *perjured* herself when she denied knowing the defendant. [1475-85; < *L perjurare* to swear falsely, equiv. to *per-* through, i.e., beyond the limits (see *PER-*) + *jurare* to swear, lit., to be at law, deriv. of *jūs* *JUS*] —*per/jure-ment*, *n.* —*per/jur-er*, *n.*

per-jured (pər'jərd), *adj.* 1. guilty of perjury. 2. characterized by or involving perjury: *perjured testimony*. [1425-75; late ME; see *PERJURE*, *-ED*] —*per/jured-ly*, *adv.* —*per/jured-ness*, *n.*

per-ju-ry (pər'jə rē), *n.* *pl.* *-ries*. *Law.* the willful giving of false testimony under oath or affirmation, before a competent tribunal, upon a point material to a legal inquiry. [1250-1300; ME *perjurie* < AF < *L perjurium*, equiv. to *perjur(us)* swearing falsely (see *PERJURE*) + *-ium* *-IUM*; *r.* *parjure* < OF < *L* as above] —*per/ju-ri-ous* (pər'jōr'ē əs), *adj.* —*per/ju-ri-ous-ly*, *adv.* —*per/ju-ri-ous-ness*, *n.*

perk (pərk), *v.i.* 1. to become lively, cheerful, or vigorous, as after depression or sickness (usually fol. by up): The patients *all perked up* when we played the piano for them. 2. to act, or carry oneself, in a jaunty manner. 3. to put oneself forward briskly or presumptuously. —*u.t.* 4. to make smart, trim, or jaunty (sometimes fol. by up or out): to *perk up* a suit with a new white blouse. 5. to raise smartly or briskly (often fol. by up or out): to *perk one's head up*. —*adj.* 6. *perky*; jaunty: a *perk manner*. [1350-1400; ME *perken*; perh. akin to *PERF-*] —*perk-ing-ly*, *adv.* —*perk-ish*, *adj.*

perk (pərk), *v.t.* *u.t.* *Informal.* to percolate: Has the coffee *perked* yet? The research team *is perking* with new ideas. [1930-35, *Amer.*; by shortening and resp. of *PERCOLATE*]

perk (pərk), *n.* *Informal.* perquisite. [1815-25; by shortening and resp.]

Per-kin (pər'kin), *n.* Sir William Henry, 1838-1907, English chemist.

Per-kins (pər'kīnz), *n.* 1. Frances, 1882-1965, U.S. sociologist; Secretary of Labor 1933-45. 2. Maxwell (Evarts), 1884-1947, U.S. editor.

perk-y (pər'kē), *adj.*, *perk-i-er*, *perk-i-est*. jaunty; cheerful; brisk; pert. [1850-55; *PERK* + *-Y*] —*perk-i-ly*, *adv.* —*perk-i-ness*, *n.*

perle (pərl), *n.* a medicinal capsule that resembles a pearl in shape. [1885-90; < F; lit., PEARL]

Per-le-a (pər'lē ə), *n.* Jo-nel (zhō'nēl), 1900-70, U.S. conductor and composer, born in Rumania.

perle/ cot/ton. See *pearl cotton*.

Per-lis (pər'lis), *n.* a state in Malaysia, on the SW Malay Peninsula. 121,062; 310 sq. mi. (803 sq. km). *Cap.* Kangar.

per-lite (pər'līt), *n.* *Petrog.* a volcanic glass in which concentric fractures impart a distinctive structure resembling masses of small spherulites, used as a plant growth medium. Also, *pearlite*. [1825-35; < F; see *PEARL*, *-ITE*] —*per/it-ic* (pər'it'ik), *adj.*

per-lo-cu-tion-ary (pər'lə kyōō'shə ner'ē), *adj.* *Philos., Ling.* (of a speech act) producing an effect upon the listener, as in persuading, frightening, amusing, or causing the listener to act. Cf. *illocutionary*, *locutionary*. [1950-55; *PER-* + *LOCUTION* + *-ARY*] —*per/lo-cu-tion*, *n.*

per-lu-ci-dus (pər lōō'si dəs), *adj.* *Meteorol.* (of a cloud) having transparent spaces between the elements. [*< NL*; see *PER-*, *LUCID*]

perm (pərm), *Informal.* —*n.* 1. permanent (def. 4). —*u.t.* 2. to give (the hair) a permanent. —*u.i.* 3. to apply a permanent to the hair. [1925-30; by shortening]

Perm (pərm, pārm; Russ. pyerm), *n.* a city in the E Russian Federation in Europe, on the Kama River. 1,091,000. Formerly, *Molotov*.

per-ma-frost (pər'mə frōst', -frōst'), *n.* (in arctic or subarctic regions) perennially frozen subsoil. Also called *pergelisol*. [1943; *PERMA(NENT)* + *FROST*]

per/mafrost ta/ble, the variable surface constituting the upper limit of permafrost. Cf. *frostline* (def. 2).

Perm-al-loy (pərm'al'oi, pər'mə lōi'), *Trademark*. a brand name for any of a class of alloys of high magnetic permeability, containing from 30 to 90 percent nickel. [1920-25; *PERMA(NENT)* + *ALLOY*]

per-ma-nence (pər'mə nens), *n.* the condition or quality of being permanent; perpetual or continued existence. [1400-50; late ME < *ML permanentia*. See *PERMANENT*, *-ENCE*]

per-ma-nen-cy (pər'mə nən sē), *n.* *pl.* *-cies* for 2. 1. permanence. 2. something that is permanent. [1545-55; < *ML permanentia*. See *PERMANENT*, *-ENCY*]

per-ma-nent (pər'mə nent), *adj.* 1. existing perpetually; everlasting, esp. without significant change. 2. intended to exist or function for a long, indefinite period without regard to unforeseeable conditions: a *permanent* employee; the *permanent* headquarters of the United Nations. 3. long-lasting or nonfading: *permanent* plating; *permanent* ink. —*n.* 4. Also called *per/ma-nent wave*, a wave or curl that is set into the hair by the application of a special chemical preparation and that remains for a number of months. [1400-50; late ME < *L permanentis* (s. of *permanēs*), prp. of *permanēre* to remain. See *PER-*, *REMAIN*, *-ENT*] —*per/ma-nent-ly*, *adv.* —*per/ma-nent-ness*, *n.* —*Syn.* 1. stable, invariable, constant. —*Ant.* 1. temporary; inconstant.

Per/ma-nent Court/ of Arbitra-tion, official name of the Hague Tribunal.

Per/ma-nent Court/ of Interna-tional Jus-tice, official name of the World Court.

per/ma-nent ech/o, *Electronics*. a radar signal re-

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b, blend of; blended; c, cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s, stem; sp., spelling; spelled; resp., respelled; trans., translation; ? origin unknown; * unattested; † probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

tem-po-rar-y (tem/pə rer/ə), *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* **-rar-ies**. —*adj.* 1. lasting, existing, serving, or effective for a time only; not permanent: a *temporary need*; a *temporary job*. —*n.* 2. an office worker hired, usually through an agency on a per diem basis, for a short period of time. [1540-50; < L *temporarius*, equiv. to *tempor-* (s. of *tempus*) time + *-arius* -ARY] —**tem-po-rar-i-ly** (tem/pə rər/ə-lē), *adv.* —**tem-po-rar-i-ness**, *n.* —**Syn.** 1. impermanent, passing. **TEMPORARY**, **TRANSIENT**, **TRANSITORY** agree in referring to that which is not lasting or permanent. **TEMPORARY** implies an arrangement established with no thought of continuance but with the idea of being changed soon: a *temporary structure*. **TRANSIENT** describes that which is in the process of passing by, and which will therefore last or stay only a short time: a *transient condition*. **TRANSITORY** describes an innate characteristic by which a thing, by its very nature, lasts only a short time: *Life is transitory*. —**Ant.** 1. permanent.

tem-po-rar-y du'ty, *n.* duty of limited duration performed with an organization other than the one to which a person is normally attached or assigned. *Abbrev.* TDY [1940-45]

tem-po-rar-y life/ annu'ity, *n.* *Insurance.* an annuity that ceases upon the death of the annuitant or upon the expiration of a period of time, whichever occurs first.

tem-po-rize (tem/pə rīz/), *v.i.*, **-rized**, **-rizing**. 1. to be indecisive or evasive to gain time or delay acting. 2. to comply with the time or occasion; yield temporarily or ostensibly to prevailing opinion or circumstances. 3. to treat or parley so as to gain time (usually fol. by *with*). 4. to come to terms (usually fol. by *with*). 5. to effect a compromise (usually fol. by *between*). *Also, Brit.* **tem-po-rise**. [1570-80; < ML *temporizare* to hang back, delay, equiv. to L *tempor-* (s. of *tempus*) time + ML *-izare* -IZE] —**tem-po-riz-a-tion**, *n.* —**tem-po-riz'er**, *n.* —**tem-po-riz-ing-ly**, *adv.* —**Syn.** 1. hedge, stall, equivocate.

temporo-, a combining form representing *temple* in compound words: *temporomandibular*. [< L *tempor-* (s. of *tempus*) TEMPLE + -o-]

tem-po-ro-man-dib-u-lar (tem/pə rō man dib/yə-lər), *adj.* *Anat.* of, pertaining to, or situated near the hinge joint formed by the lower jaw and the temporal bone of the skull. [1885-90; **TEMPORO-** + **MANDIBULAR**]

tem-po-ro-man-dib-u-lar joint/ syn'drome, *n.* *Pathol.* a condition attributed to tension in or faulty articulation of the temporomandibular joint, having a wide range of symptoms that include dizziness, ringing in the ears, and pain in the head, neck, and shoulders. Also called **TMJ syndrome**.

temps (Fr. tã), *n.*, *pl.* **temps** (Fr. tã). *Ballet.* part of a dance step in which there is no transfer of weight. [1885-90; < F. lit., time < L *tempus*]

temps le-vé (Fr. tã lē vā/), *pl.* **temps le-vés** (Fr. tã lē vā/). *Ballet.* a small hop on one foot, with the other foot raised off the floor. [< F]

temps li-é (Fr. tã lē ā/), *pl.* **temps li-és** (Fr. tã lē ā/). *Ballet.* a series of systematized and connected arm and leg movements done for practice. [< F]

tempt (tempt), *v.t.* 1. to entice or allure to do something often regarded as unwise, wrong, or immoral. 2. to attract, appeal strongly to, or invite: *The offer tempts me*. 3. to render strongly disposed to do something: *The book tempted me to read more on the subject*. 4. to put (someone) to the test in a venturesome way; provoke: *to tempt one's fate*. 5. Obs. to try or test. [1175-1225; ME < L *temptare* to probe, feel, test, tempt] —**tempt'a-ble**, *adj.*

—**Syn.** 1. **TEMPT**, **SEDUCE** may both mean to allure or entice to something unwise or wicked. To **TEMPT** is to attract by holding out the probability of gratification or advantage, often in the direction of that which is wrong or unwise: *to tempt a man with a bribe*. To **SEDUCE** is literally to lead astray, sometimes from that which absorbs one or demands attention, but oftener, in a moral sense, from rectitude, chastity, etc.: *to seduce a person away from loyalty*. 2. inveigle, induce, lure, incite, persuade.

tempt-a-tion (tempt tã/shən), *n.* 1. the act of tempting; enticement or allurements. 2. something that tempts, entices, or allures. 3. the fact or state of being tempted, esp. to evil. 4. an instance of this. 5. (*cap.*) the temptation of Christ by Satan. *Matt.* 4. [1175-1225; ME *temptacion* < L *temptatio*- (s. of *temptatio*) a testing. See **TEMPT**, **-ATION**] —**tempt-a-tion-al**, *adj.*

—**Syn.** 1. lure, attraction, pull, seduction, inducement. **tempt'er** (tempt/tər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that tempts, esp. to evil. 2. **The Tempter**, Satan; the devil. [1350-1400; **TEMPT** + -ER; f. ME *temptour* < OF *temptere*, *temptior* < LL *temptator*- (s. of *temptator*) tempter (to sin), L. one who makes an attempt; see **TEMPT**, **-TOR**]

tempt-ing (tempt/ing), *adj.* that tempts; enticing or inviting. [1540-50; **TEMPT** + -ING] —**tempt-ing-ly**, *adv.* —**tempt-ing-ness**, *n.*

—**Syn.** attractive, alluring, seductive. —**Ant.** repellent.

tempt-ress (tempt/tris), *n.* a woman who tempts, entices, or allures. [1585-95; **TEMPT**(E)R + -ESS] —**Usage.** See -ess.

tem-pu-ra (tem pōōr/ə), *n.* *Japanese Cookery.* seafood or vegetables dipped in batter and deep-fried. [1935-40; < Jpn *tempura*, allegedly < Pg *tempore* seasoning, taste (deriv. of *tempus* for season < L *tempus*; see **TEMP**)]

tem-pus e-dax re-rum (tem/pōōs ē/daks rā/rōōm; Eng. tem/pəs ē/daks rēr/əm), *Latin.* time, devourer of all things.

tem-pus fu-git (tem/pōōs fūō/git; Eng. tem/pəs fyūō/jit), *Latin.* time, flies.

Tem-pyō (tem/pyō/), *adj.* of or pertaining to the period of Japanese art history, A.D. 725-794, characterized by the flowering of Buddhist architecture and statuary:

combined Tang Chinese influences and emerging native traits. [< Jpn, imperial era name < MChin, equiv. to Chin *tian ping* heaven is peaceful]

Ten-mu-co (te mōō/kō), *n.* a city in S Chile. 138,430.

ten (ten), *n.* 1. a cardinal number, nine plus one. 2. a symbol for this number, as 10 or X. 3. a set of this many persons or things. 4. a playing card with ten pips. 5. *Informal.* a ten-dollar bill: *She had two tens and a five in her purse*. 6. Also called **ten's place**. *Math.* a. (in a mixed number) the position of the second digit to the left of the decimal point. b. (in a whole number) the position of the second digit from the right. 7. **take ten**, *Informal.* to rest from what one is doing, esp. for ten minutes. —*adj.* 8. amounting to ten in number. [bef. 900; ME *ten(e)*, *tenn(e)*, OE *tēn(e)*, *tien(e)*; c. D *tien*, G *zehn*, ON *tiu*, Goth *taihun*, L *decem*, Gk *dēka*, Skt *daśa*]

10, the upper end of a rating scale, with 10 indicating the best or a perfect score: *That new novel is wonderful — I'd rate it a 10.*

ten., 1. *tenor*. 2. *Music.* *tenuto*.

Ten-a (ten/ə), *n.* *Koyukon.*

ten-a-ble (ten/ə bəl), *adj.* 1. capable of being held, maintained, or defended, as against attack or dispute: a *tenable theory*. 2. capable of being occupied, possessed, held, or enjoyed, as under certain conditions: a *research grant tenable for two years*. [1570-80; < F. that can be held, equiv. to *ten* (ir) to hold (< L *tenēre*) + -able -ABLE] —**ten-a-bil-i-ty**, **ten-a-ble-ness**, *n.* —**ten-a-bly**, *adv.*

—**Syn.** 1. workable, viable, maintainable, warrantable.

ten-ace (ten/ās/), *n.* *Whist, Bridge.* a sequence of two high cards of the same suit that lack an intervening card to be in consecutive order, as the ace and five. *Cf.* **major tenace**, **minor tenace**. [1645-55; < Sp *tenazas* tongs, tence (in card games), deriv. of *tenaz* < L *tenāx* TENACIOUS; cf. ML *tenācēs* forceps]

ten-a-cious (tē nā/shēs), *adj.* 1. holding fast; characterized by keeping a firm hold (often fol. by *on*): a *tenacious grip on my arm*; *tenacious of old habits*. 2. highly retentive: a *tenacious memory*. 3. pertinacious, persistent, stubborn, or obstinate. 4. adhesive or sticky; viscous or glutinous. 5. holding together; cohesive; not easily pulled asunder; tough. [1600-10; **TENAC**(TV) + -OUS] —**ten-a-cious-ly**, *adv.* —**ten-a-cious-ness**, *n.* —**Syn.** 3. opinionated, dogged. 4. clinging.

ten-a-ci-ty (tē nā/si tē), *n.* the quality or property of being tenacious. [1520-30; < L *tenāci-tās* equiv. to *tenāx* (s. of *tenāx*) holding fast, deriv. of *tenēre* to hold + -itās -ITY] —**Syn.** See **perseverance**.

ten-a-cu-lum (tē nāk/yā ləm), *n.*, *pl.* **-la** (-lē). 1. *Surg.* a small sharp-pointed hook set in a handle, used for seizing and picking up parts in operations and dissections. 2. *Entomol.* a clasplike appendage on the abdomen of a springtail, which holds the springing device in place. [1685-95; < L *tenaculum* instrument for gripping, equiv. to *tenēre* to hold + -a- (from v. stems ending in -ā; see **GUERNACULUM**) + -culum -CULE] —**ten-a-fly** (ten/ə flī/), *n.* a borough in NE New Jersey. 13,552.

ten-a-im (Yiddish, Ashk. Heb., Eng. tē nā/yim, -nō/-; Seph. Heb. tē nām/), *n.* (*used with a singular or plural v.*) *Judaism.* the terms of a Jewish marriage, as the wedding date, amount of the bride's dowry, etc., or an agreement containing such terms, made by the parents of an engaged couple at the engagement party. [lit., agreements]

ten-an-cy (ten/ən sē), *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. a holding, as of lands, by any kind of title; occupancy of land, a house, or the like, under a lease or on payment of rent; tenure. 2. the period of a tenant's occupancy. 3. occupancy or enjoyment of a position, post, situation, etc.: *her tenure as professor of history at the state university*. 4. *Archaic.* a piece of land held by a tenant; holding. [1570-80; **TEN**(ANT) + -ANCY; cf. ML *tenantia*, var. of *tenentia*]

ten-ancy in com'mon, *Law.* a holding of property, usually real, by two or more persons with each owning an undivided share and with no right of survivorship. *Cf.* **joint tenancy**. [1760-70]

ten-ant (ten/ənt), *n.* 1. a person or group that rents and occupies land, a house, an office, or the like, from another for a period of time; lessee. 2. *Law.* a person who holds or possesses for a time lands, tenements, or personality of another, usually for rent. 3. an occupant or inhabitant of any place. —*u.t.* 4. to hold or occupy as a tenant; dwell in; inhabit. —*u.i.* 5. to dwell or live (usually fol. by *in*). [1250-1300; ME *tena(u)nt* < AF; MF *tenant*, *n.* use of prp. of *tenir* to hold < L *tenēre*. See -ANT] —**ten-ant-a-ble**, *adj.* —**ten-ant-less**, *adj.* —**ten-ant-like**, *adj.*

ten-ant farm'er, a person who farms the land of another and pays rent with cash or with a portion of the produce. [1855-60]

ten-ant in chief, a feudal vassal who holds land directly from the king. Also, **ten-ant-in-chief**. Also called **ten-ant in cap'i-ty** (kap'i tē). [1600-10]

ten-ant in com'mon, *Law.* one of two or more persons who hold property by tenancy in common. *Cf.* **joint tenant**. [1600-10]

ten-ant-ry (ten/ən trē), *n.* 1. tenants collectively; the body of tenants on an estate. 2. the state or condition of being a tenant. [1350-1400; ME; see **TENANT**, -RY]

ten-cent store (ten/sent/, -sent/), *n.* five-and-ten (def. 1). [1900-05, Amer.]

tench (tench), *n.*, *pl.* **tench-es**, (*esp. collectively*) **tench**. a freshwater food fish, *Tinca tinca*, of Europe and Asia that can survive short periods out of water. [1350-1400; ME *tenche* < MF, OF < LL *tinca*]

ten/ code, *Radio.* a set of code numbers each beginning with the number ten and used as a code to describe different situations: originally used by the police, now

used in CB and other radio communications. *Cf.* **ten-four**.

Ten' Command'ments, the precepts spoken by God to Israel, delivered to Moses on Mount Sinai; the Decalogue. Ex. 20; 24:12,34; Deut. 5. Though the numbering of these commandments may differ in some religions, that which has been followed in this dictionary is based on the King James Version of the Bible.

tend' (tend), *v.i.* 1. to be disposed or inclined in action, operation, or effect to do something: *The particles tend to unite*. 2. to be disposed toward an idea, emotion, way of thinking, etc.: *He tends to be overly optimistic*. *Her religious philosophy tends toward pantheism*. 3. to lead or conduce, as to some result or resulting condition: *measures tending to improved working conditions*; *Governments are tending toward democracy*. 4. to be inclined to or have a tendency toward a particular quality, state, or degree: *This wine tends toward the sweet side*. 5. (of a journey, course, road, etc.) to lead or be directed in a particular direction (usually fol. by *to*, *toward*, etc.): *a path tending toward the beach*. [1300-50; ME *tenden* < MF *tendre* < L *tendere* to stretch, extend, proceed]

tend' (tend), *v.t.* 1. to attend to by work or services, care, etc.: *to tend a fire*. 2. to look after; watch over and care for; minister to or wait on with service: *to tend the sick*. 3. *Naut.* to handle or attend to (a rope). —*u.i.* 4. to attend by action, care, etc. (usually fol. by *to*). 5. **tend on** or **upon**, *Archaic.* to attend or wait upon; minister to; serve: *She tended on the sick and dying with infinite compassion*. [1300-50; ME *tenden*, *aph. var.* of *ATTEND*]

tend-ance (ten/dəns), *n.* 1. attention; care; ministrations, as to the sick. 2. *Archaic.* servants or attendants. [1565-75; *aph. var.* of **ATTENDANCE**]

tend-ency (ten/dən sē), *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. a natural or prevailing disposition to move, proceed, or act in some direction or toward some point, end, or result: *the tendency of falling bodies toward the earth*. 2. an inclination, bent, or predisposition to something: *a tendency to talk too much*. 3. a special and definite purpose in a novel or other literary work. [1620-30; < ML *tendentia*. See **TEND**, -ENCY]

—**Syn.** 1. **TENDENCY**, **DIRECTION**, **TREND**, **DRIFT** refer to inclination or line of action or movement. A **TENDENCY** is an inclination toward a certain line of action (whether or not the action follows), and is often the result of inherent qualities, nature, or habit: *a tendency to procrastinate*. **DIRECTION** is the line along which an object or course of action moves, often toward some set point or intended goal: *The change is in the direction of improvement*. **TREND** emphasizes simultaneous movement in a certain direction of a number of factors, although the course or goal may not be clear for any single feature: *Business indicators showed a downward trend*. **DRIFT** emphasizes gradual development as well as direction: *the drift of his argument*. 2. proclivity, leaning.

tend-ency tone, a tone that is harmonically or melodically unstable and tends naturally to resolve itself either upward or downward.

tend-en-tious (ten/dən/shēs), *adj.* having or showing a definite tendency, bias, or purpose: *tendentious novel*. Also, **ten-den-cious**, **ten-den-tial** (ten/dən/shəl). [1895-1900; < ML *tendentia* (a) **TENDENCY** + -OUS] —**ten-den-tious-ly**, *adv.* —**ten-den-tious-ness**, *n.*

tend-er (ten/dər), *adj.*, **-er**, **-est**, *v.* —*adj.* 1. soft or delicate in substance; not hard or tough: *a tender steak*. 2. weak or delicate in constitution; not strong or hardy. 3. (of plants) unable to withstand freezing temperatures. 4. young or immature: *children of tender age*. 5. delicate or soft in quality: *tender blue*. 6. delicate, soft, or gentle: *the tender touch of her hand*. 7. easily moved to sympathy or compassion; kind: *a tender heart*. 8. affectionate or loving; sentimental or amatory: *a tender glance*. 9. considerate or careful; chary or reluctant (usually fol. by *of*). 10. acutely or painfully sensitive: *a tender bruise*. 11. easily distressed; readily made uneasy: *a tender conscience*. 12. yielding readily to force or pressure; easily broken; fragile. 13. of a delicate or ticklish nature; requiring careful or tactful handling: *a tender subject*. 14. *Naut.* crank² (def. 1). —*u.t.* 15. to make tender. 16. *Archaic.* to regard or treat tenderly. [1175-1225; ME, var. of *tendre* < OF < L *tenerum*, acc. of *tener* tender] —**ten-der-ly**, *adv.* —**ten-der-ness**, *n.*

ten-der (ten/dər), *v.t.* 1. to present formally for acceptance; make formal offer of: *to tender one's resignation*. 2. to offer or proffer. 3. *Law.* to offer, as money or goods, in payment of a debt or other obligation, esp. in exact accordance with the terms of the law and of the obligation. —*u.i.* 4. to make or submit a bid (often fol. by *for*). —*n.* 5. the act of tendering; an offer of something for acceptance. 6. something tendered or offered, esp. money, as in payment. 7. *Com.* an offer made in writing by one party to another to execute certain work, supply certain commodities, etc., at a given cost; bid. 8. *Law.* an offer, as of money or goods, in payment or satisfaction of a debt or other obligation. [1535-45; earlier *tendre*, *n.* use of AF *tendre* to extend, offer. See **TEND**] —**ten-der-er**, *n.*

—**Syn.** 1. See **offer**. 5. proposal, proffer.

tend-er (ten/dər), *n.* 1. a person who tends; a person who attends to or takes charge of someone or something. 2. an auxiliary ship employed to attend one or more other ships, as for supplying provisions. 3. a dinghy carried or towed by a yacht. 4. *Railroads.* a car attached to a steam locomotive for carrying fuel and water. [1425-75; late ME; orig. *aph. var.* of *attender*; see **TEND**, -ER]

ten-der-a-ble (ten/dər-ə bəl), *adj.* capable of being tendered or offered in payment, as money or goods. [1880-85; **TENDER** + -ABLE] —**ten-der-a-bil-i-ty**, *n.*

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cāpe, dāre, pāt; set, ēqual; if, icē; ox, ōver, ōrder, oil, bōok, bōst, out, ūrge; child, sing; shoe, thīn; that; zh as in treasure, a = a as in alone, e as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus; * as in fire (fīr), hour (ōur), l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.